

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

66664

DRAFTED BY: EB/ AN: PJGLASOE

APPROVED BY: EB/ AN: HSTYLES

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R 112208 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO COMUSFORAZ LAJES

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FOLL SENT ACTION LISBON FROM SECSTATE 04 MAY 73 REPEATED TO YOU  
QUOTE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, PO

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PAN AM REQUEST FOR SERVICE AT LAJES

REF: LISBON 1619

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY EFFORTS IN SUBJECT CASE.
2. IN VIEW INFO AND COMMENT CONTAINED REFTTEL, WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TRANSMIT FURTHER NOTE TO GOP, TIMED TO ARRIVE PRIOR TO TUESDAY MEETING. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES OBJECTIONS, OR STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT TIMING SUCH AN APPROACH IS NOT GOOD, IT THEREFORE REQUESTED TRANSMIT FOLLOWING NOTE ON MAY 7.  
A.... REGRETS THAT THE GOP HAS SO FAR NOT FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO AUTHORIZE PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS TO UTILIZE LAJES AIRPORT AS TAP HAS BEEN DOING FOR TWO YEARS. AS WAS POINTED OUT IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF FEBRUARY 20, THE USG FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THE INAUGURATION OF OPERATIONS VIA LAJES AIRPORT BY TAP CREATED FOR US CARRIERS THE COROLLARY RIGHT TO SERVE THAT AIRPORT, PARTICULARLY, IF, AS HAS CLEARLY BEEN THE CASE, THE COMMERCIAL OPERATION OF TAP AT  
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LAJES RESULTS IN A SIGNIFICANT DIVERSION FROM THE TRAFFIC NOW HANDLED THROUGH SANTA MARIA BY US DESIGNATED AIRLINES. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY ONE COMMERCIAL AIRLINE SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO OPERATE THROUGH LAJES AND NOT ANOTHER.

B. AS THE MINISTRY IS AWARE, PAN AMERICAN'S ORIGINAL PLANS CALLED FOR THE INAUGURATION OF ONCE- WEEKLY SERVICE THROUGH LAJES THE FIRST WEEK IN MAY. THE DISRUPTION IN PAN AMERICAN'S SCHEDULING AND THE INCONVENIENCE TO PASSENGERS PLANNING TO TRAVEL ON PAN AMERICAN TO OR FROM LAJES IS ALREADY CONSIDERABLE, AND BECOMES MORE SEVERE AS TIME PASSES. IT IS THEREFORE VERY IMPORTANT THAT AN EARLY RESPONSE BE RECEIVED FROM THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES ON THE REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF THAT PART OF PAN AMERICAN'S SCHEDULE CALLING FOR A SERVICE THROUGH LAJES.

C. IF THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO AUTHORIZE US CARRIER COMMERCIAL SERVICE THROUGH LAJES IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE US- PORTUGAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT AS WELL AS WITH THE CLEAR INTENT OF THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH BY THE USG IN ITS NOTE OF MARCH 19, 1971, THERE APPEARS NO ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN FOR THE USG TO REQUEST THE TERMINATION OF COMMERCIAL STOPS BY TAP AT LAJES ON ITS SERVICES TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES...

3. FYI: IN VIEW OF TIMING PROBLEMS NOTED ABOVE, IF PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES DO NOT AUTHORIZE PAN AM SERVICE THROUGH LAJES BY MAY 11, WE PLAN TO INSTRUCT EMBASSY ON FOLLOW- UP APPROACH TO GOP DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT TERMINATION TAP'S STOPS AT LAJES ON ITS OPERATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES IN NEAR FUTURE - PERHAPS WITHIN AS SHORT A PERIOD AS 30 DAYS.

4. PAN AMERICAN'S TWO FLIGHTS ( ONE EACH DIRECTION) SCHEDULED THROUGH LAJES DURING WEEK OF APRIL 30 WERE DIVERTED TO SANTA MARIA WITH PRIOR APPROVAL OF PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES. PAN AMERICAN PLANS SAME SOLUTION DURING WEEK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF MAY 7, ASSUMING LAJES APPROVAL NOT FOQZRTHCOMING IN TIME. EMBASSY REQUESTED LEND PAN AM WHATEVER ASSISTANCE IS APPROPRIATE IN OBTAINING GOP AUTHORIZATION SANTA MARIA LANDINGS IN EVENT SUCH AUTHORIZATION NOT " ROUTINELY" GRANTED UP ON APPLICATION BY PAN AM. END FYI. RUSH UNQUOTE ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE085269  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** EB/ AN: PJGLASOE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 LISBON 1619  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980209  
**Subject:** CIVAIR - PAN AM REQUEST FOR SERVICE AT LAJES  
**TAGS:** ETRN, PO, ETRN  
**To:** LAJES  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005